(d) if so, the details of proper perspective and strategy chalked out to analyse and tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has recently approved a rehabilitation package for mitigating distress of farmers in 31 suicide prone districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. The package aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services, and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries, etc. The package involves a total amount of Rs. 16978.69 crore. The State-wise break-up is as under:

Andhra Pradesh	-	Rs. 9650.55 crore
Karnataka	-	Rs. 2689.64 crore
Kerala	-	Rs. 765.24 crore
Maharashtra	-	Rs. 3873.26 crore

(c) and (d) There have been reports of suicide by farmers. As the rehabilitation package has recently been approved for implementation, it is too early to assess its impact at ground level.

Impact of liberalisation policies on agriculture

277. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the impact of liberalization, privatization and globalisation (LPG) policies on Indian agriculture and on lives of millions of peasants and agricultural workers leading to unprecedented phenomenon of suicides of thousands of indebted peasants and agricultural workers in various States; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The various studies conducted and the reports of State Governments have attributed the reasons for suicide by farmers mainly on crop failure, indebtedness, drought and social economic insecurity.

Several measures have been taken to improve the condition of farmers. These include enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure; ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs; promoting farmer friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system; accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture activities; strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain; optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry-land/rain fed farming system; reforming agricultural markets and widespread use of post harvest technology, and putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers.

The Government of India has also recently approved a rehabilitation package for 31 suicide prone Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala.

Controlling bird flu

278.   SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
        SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether bird flu situation is quite under control and regular countrywide surveillance mechanism is on to check any possible outbreak in the future;

(b) whether according to experts around 150 types of bird flu are lurking;

(c) whether there is a worldwide concern over the bird flu among US and various other countries;

(d) if so, whether bird flu has affected poultry export which is at present nil; and

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take to check bird flu in the future and improve the poultry exports which has suffered a great loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir. India has declared freedom from Avian Influenza on 11.8.2006.

(b) Bird flu is broadly categorized into two i.e. HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) and LPAI (Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza).

In other way Avian Influenza Virus (AIV) has been classified on the basis of Hemagglutinin (H) and Neuraminidase (N) antigens. As on date